

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Samuel P. Langley, March 21, 1901

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March 21, 1901. Dear Prof. Langley: —

The bearer of this note, Mr. Charles Lane, was for thirteen years in the employ of Mrs. Gardiner G. Hubbard, and when she went to Europe she gave him a general letter of recommendation, which I think you saw — for I understand that Mr. Lane obtained from you a position in the Smithsonian as laborer last November. He thought he had been placed upon the permanent force, but finds that the appropriation under which he was employed expired March 15 so that he is now again thrown out of employment.

He does not think that the matter has come personally to your attention and asks me to “use my influence” to have you look into the matter. I do not know anything personally about Mr. Lane's qualifications, but remember that he was employed by Mrs. Hubbard, and that she considered him to be a good, faithful man.

Under these circumstances I do not hesitate to ask you to look into his case — in confidence that you will deal justly by him in accordance with his merits.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell Prof. S. P. Langley, Smithsonian Institution.